

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 DHA-02 OIC-02 /100 W

-----112017Z 012633 /44

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5158

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SHUM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION--SOVIET ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS
LEADER

1. LEAD STORY IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
OF FEBRUARY 11 CARRIED MOSCOW DATELINE WITH HEADING
"MOSCOW ARRESTS LEADER OF GROUP ON CIVIL RIGHTS."
STORY WRITTEN BY PETER OSNOS REPORTS ON ARREST OF
YURI ORLOV, LEADER OF A GROUP THAT HAS BEEN MONITORING
KREMLIN COMPLIANCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF
THE 1975 HELSINKI ACCORD. ACCORDING TO STORY, ARRESTING
AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO INFORM ORLOV'S WIFE OF THE
CHARGES AGAINST HER HUSBAND.

2. PRIOR TO A.M. MEETING FEBRUARY 11, USREP
(LOWENSTEIN) ASKED FOR MEETING OF HRC WEO GROUP TO
DISCUSS ACTION GROUP MIGHT TAKE IN HRC WITH RESPECT TO
ABOVE NEWS REPORT. LOWENSTEIN EXPLAINED TO GROUP
THAT SUCH SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT COULD
NOT GO UNNOTICED BY HRC IF HRC WERE TO BE TRUE TO ITS
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MANDATE OF CONCERN FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLES
EVERYWHERE AND REITERATED IN TELEGRAM SENT TO ISRAELI
GOVT. YESTERDAY. IN RESPONSE TO LOWENSTEIN'S REQUEST
FOR SUGGESTIONS AS TO ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN,
GROUP WAS UNANIMOUSLY OF OPINION THAT SOME IMMEDIATE
MOVE WAS REQUIRED. SINCE COMMISSION WAS IN THE MIDST
OF ITS DEBATE ON QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISRAELI

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, ANY PROPOSAL REQUIREING COMMISSION DECISION TO INTERRUPT THAT DEBATE WOULD CAUSE UNDESIRABLE PROCEDURAL HASSLE, HAVING IN MIND LIKELY UNHELPFUL RULINGS YUGOSLV CHAIRMAN. WEO GROUP UNANIMOUSLY CONCLUDED THAT BEST TACTIC WOULD BE FOR USREP TO ASK TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE END OF THE A.M HRC MEETING, SINCE NEXT REGULAR SESSION IS NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL A.M. FEBRUARY 14. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER NEWS REPORT FROM MOSCOW, AND INTENT TO CONSULT WITH COMMISSION COLLEAGUES ON POSSIBLE CONSENSUS ACTION WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED TO SECURE FURTHER INFORMATION FROM USSR GOVERNMENT ON DETAILS SURROUNDING ARREST OF ORLOV. VARIOUS WEO MEMBERS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT SUCH A STEP PUBLICLY. AMONG ACTIONS DISCUSSED THAT MIGHT OCCUR EVENTUALLY WERE A TELEGRAM TO THE USSR GOVERNMENT, BUT NO FURTHER ACTION WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES MIGHT SECURE WIDEST SUPPORT IN HRC.

3. AT CLOSE OF A.M. HRC MEETING, HRC CHAIRMAN GRANTED USREP'S REQUEST FOR FLOOR TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. USREP THEREUPON MADE ANNOUNCEMENT AS DESCRIBED PARA. 2 ABOVE, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT MORNING PRESS REPORT, AND HIS INTENT TO CONSULT WITH HRC COMMISSION MEMBERS ON BEST METHOD TO ENABLE COMMISSION TO FIND OUT ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IN USSR. OBSERVED THAT SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HRC AT PREVIOUS MEETING HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO ISRAELI GOVT ON URGENT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, TELEGRAM MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THIS EVENT AS WELL.

4. USSR REP ZORIN IN BRIEF STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT OF USREP, NOTED THAT IF USG WISHED INFO FROM USSR GOVT A NUMBER OF CHANNELS WERE AVAILABLE TO THE USG. HE EXPRESSED WONDER THAT A MATTER DEALING WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR SHOULD BE RAISED IN THE HRC, ASSERTING THAT HRC HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE QUESTION. HE CLOSED BY QUESTIONING WHAT MOTIVES LAY BEHIND THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY USREP IN RAISING QUESTION AT THIS TIME AND IN THE HRC FORUM.

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06
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5. USDEL ENCOURAGED BY UNANIMOUSLY POSITIVE REACTION OF WEOS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO U.S. MOVE TO RAISE ORLOV INCIDENT IN THE HRC. USDEL CONSIDERS THAT SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES RAISED BY ORLOV AND OTHER ARRESTS REQUIRE THAT HRC REACT TO SITUATION THROUGH APPROPRIATE ACTION IF HRC IS TO SUCCEED IN ALTERING ITS IMAGE OF SELECTIVITY OF CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH IS PRINCIPAL GOAL OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN THE UN. ADDITIONAL MAJOR CONSIDERATION IS RELATIONSHIP OF THIS CASE TO IMPORTANT DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR U.S. IN UN IN DEALING WITH PRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. REASONED AND OBJECTIVE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION IN THIS CASE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE UTILITY OF MULTILATERAL AS AGAINST BILATERAL APPROACHES IN DEALING WITH MANY CASES OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

6. USDEL PROPOSES THAT AS A NEXT STEP WE CONSULT WITH WEOS ON A TEXT OF A TELEGRAM WHICH WOULD BE AS NON-CONTENTIOUS AS POSSIBLE AND WHICH WOULD HAVE AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS PURPOSE THE EXPRESSION OF PROPER CONCERN BY THE HRC AT THE ORLOV ARREST AND AN EFFORT TO SECURE MORE INFORMATION ON THE FACTS SURROUNDING THAT INCIDENT. ONCE TEXT AGREED UPON AMONG WEOS WE WOULD HOPE TO SECURE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM HRC MEMBERS FROM OTHER

GROUPS. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FROM A NUMBER OF THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS AND THE GENERAL RESPONSE APPEARS FAVORABLE TO FURTHER STEPS TAKEN IN SAME SPIRIT. WE PROPOSE ALSO TO CONSULT ON FUTURE TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED WHICH WILL INVOLVE MOST IMPORTANTLY THE ITEM ON THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA UNDER WHICH THE MATTER WILL BE RAISED AGAIN. (ALL DELEGATIONS CONSULTED AGREE THAT NO EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INSCRIBE NEW AGENDA ITEM.) THE MOST OBVIOUS ITEM IS NUMBER 12 WHICH DEALS BROADLY WITH VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION'S SCHEDULE THIS ITEM MAY NOT BE REACHED FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS. AN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER MAY BE POSSIBLE UNDER ITEMS 9 AND 18, WHICH ARE TO BE CONSIDERED JOINTLY. USDEL RECALLS WHAT THE QUESTION OF DETENTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS WAS DISCUSSED AT THREE HRC SESSIONS UNDER ITEM 9, WHICH HAS THE GENERAL TITLE OF FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE INFORMALLY SCHEDULED ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE WEOS FOR A.M. FEBRUARY 14. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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